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1997

MINUTES
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

JAN. 15, 1997 ...

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1997

THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
1997 01 15

Present: Mrs. Kappheim (Chairman); Trustees Bishop and Mulholland; Mesdames Batey, Bramberger, Burns, Dalziel, Kerr Jaskiewicz, Oommen and Messrs. Bucsis and Must.

Not Present: Trustees Patenaude and Stewart; Mesdames Savelli and Simms-Obidi; Messrs Shields and Verticchio.

Also Present: Mesdames E. Collins (Hamilton Principals' Association) and P. Hutchinson (Hamilton Teachers' Federation).

Officials Present: E. Bond (Superintendent of Program) and Dr. J. Tomlinson (Project Team Leader - Special Education).

Miss Bond called the meeting to order and asked for nominations for Chairman. FEB 17 1997

Moved by Mr. Bucsis:

That Arlene Kappheim be nominated Chairman of the Special Education Advisory Committee for the year ending 1997 11 30. CARRIED

The members expressed their appreciation and thanks to Mr. Bucsis for chairing this Committee this past year.

Mrs. Kappheim noted regrets for not attending were received from Trustees Patenaude and Stewart; Ms. O'Brien (Hamilton Secondary School Principals' Council); and Mr. Verticchio.

Moved by Mr. Mulholland:

That the minutes of the 1996 09 18 meeting be approved. CARRIED

Remarks

Chairman

Mrs. Kappheim welcomed the opportunity to be Chairman of SEAC for this year, noting the many challenges ahead for Special Education programming.

Mrs. Kappheim then introduced the new representatives to SEAC:

- Ms. Sandy Batey of Hamilton-Wentworth Communication Collective
- Mr. Thomas Must of Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders

Project Team Leader - Special Education

Dr. Tomlinson drew the members' attention to the various activities in the schools for special-needs students and the start of the IPRC process for this year. She also referred to in-service sessions provided for staff.

Mrs. Bishop requested the schedule for the in-service activities, noting this may be of interest and benefit to SEAC members.

Superintendent of Program

Miss Bond's update included the following:

- ☛Amalgamation of Hamilton and Wentworth County School Boards
 - the two boards already have some informally established program linkages
 - regular updates on Amalgamation issues will be shared with this Committee

- ☞ The Regional Office of the Ministry of Education and Training is no longer in existence. A district office is presently located in Waterloo.
- ☞ Approval process for Special Education Plan will be different -- more of a "monitoring" concept.
- ☞ The revised Regulation 305 has not yet been approved by the Ministry of Education and Training.
- ☞ There will be changes in the "Exceptionality" definitions.
- ☞ The need to update the Special Education Handbook.

GENERAL

Presentation - Association for Bright Children

Mrs. Kappheim advised that she could not do her presentation tonight. Apologizing for the inconvenience, she indicated that she will be prepared to present at the February meeting.

Organizational Updates

Ms. Kerr Jaskiewicz [Hamilton and District Easter Seals Parent Delegate Group] spoke on and distributed the following documents (a copy on file in the Minute Room):

- ☞ The Easter Seal Society Response to the Ontario Secondary Schools (1998) Detailed Discussion Paper (one copy provided to the Office of the Superintendent of Program)
- ☞ "Who's Responsible for Your Child's Education?"
- ☞ "Special Education and the Boards" by Susan Hall and Georgina Rayner
- ☞ PAAC (Provincial Parent Association Advisory Committee) Report re: a) York University's Teacher Training Program, b) Special Education and the Provincial Government and c) SEAC Workshop
- ☞ Status on Special Education Initiatives - November 1996
- ☞ An editorial from Ottawa Citizen (1996 10 11) re "Educating the Disabled"

When Ms. Kerr Jaskiewicz raised some concerns regarding principal consultation by parents in some schools, Miss Bond offered to meet with her after the meeting to address the problem.

Ms. Collins clarified for Ms. Kerr Jaskiewicz the school procedure for parents' visitation and observation in the classroom.

Ms. Bramberger (Hamilton-Wentworth Home Care Program) apprised the members of ongoing changes in the home care program. She anticipates to bring future updates to this Committee.

Mrs. Oommen (Down Syndrome Association) reported the following:

- ☞ the Association's recent Christmas party.
- ☞ the forthcoming Association's general meeting on 1997 01 22 will focus on the issues of "Power of Attorney" and "Wills Planning".
- ☞ the successful co-ordination between Down Syndrome Association and the Association for Community Living.

Ms. Hutchinson (Hamilton Teachers' Federation) referred to the upcoming Jean Cutbill Award [sponsored by the Hamilton Women Teachers' Association] given to an exceptional student who is considered "having gone one step beyond expectations".

Ms. Collins (Hamilton Principals' Association) voiced the general concerns of the Association on key educational issues, e.g. Amalgamation. A Directions Committee has been struck to monitor the upcoming changes to Education.

Mrs. Bishop's update included the following:

- ☞ A recent Long-Term Care meeting approved the plans and recommendations relative to children. [Mrs. Bishop to bring further update at the next meeting.]
 - ☞ Correspondence from the Ministry of Health to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association re funding for speech and language programs to pre-school children [copies distributed at the meeting; a copy on file in the Minute Room].
 - ☞ Document on "Exploring the Needs, Expectations and Capacities of Young Adults with Physical Disabilities" [copies distributed at the meeting; a copy on file in the Minute Room].
- Mrs. Bishop referred the recommendations contained in this document to the officials for review. Miss Bond agreed to provide feedback in June.
- ☞ Report on Elementary and Secondary Enrolment and Class Size -- presented at the 1997 01 09 Personnel and Organization Committee meeting (a copy on file in the Minute Room).
 - ☞ Mrs. Bishop briefly spoke on the highlights of the forthcoming educational restructuring (Amalgamation of School Boards) and then referred to the following Ministry documents:
 - "Education Restructuring Information Session, Speaking Notes [attached to the minutes at the request of Mrs. Bishop]
 - "Fewer School Boards Act, 1997", Explanatory Note [a copy on file in the Minute Room]

Correspondence from the Sudbury Board of Education re Cuts to Education at the Provincial Level Affecting Special Education at the Classroom Level

Miss Bond reviewed briefly the correspondence, noting the members could get a better response to their concerns by bringing these to the attention of the Education Quality and Accountability Office.

Moved by Mrs. Bishop:

That the Correspondence from the Sudbury Board of Education re Cuts to Education at the Provincial Level Affecting Special Education at the Classroom Level be received for information and the following recommendations approved:

(a) That the Special Education Advisory Committee write to the Education Quality and Accountability Office expressing its concerns regarding quality indicators and provincial standards for special education.

(b) That the Special Education Advisory Committee write to the Ministry of Education and Training endorsing the recommendations of the Sudbury Board of Education regarding funding for special education. **CARRIED**

Agenda Planning for the 1997 Year After some discussion, the members agreed on the priority issues for the 1997 SEAC agendas (see attached Exhibit A).

The meeting then adjourned.

Read and confirmed,

CHAIRMAN

rt

Atts.

EXHIBIT A
AGENDA PLANNING FOR THE 1997 YEAR

KEY ISSUES

Amalgamation [will be a regular item on the Agenda; updates provided at each meeting]

Behaviour Concerns

Restraint Policy Update (tied with Behaviour Concerns)

Report on Special Education Programs

Peer Tutor Program - Evaluation (long term)

- School presentations

Accessibility

- Implementation (refer to report)
- Communication to schools
- Plant Department's action (e.g. ramps, washrooms, etc.)
- Categories of schools (A-D)
- Ministry of Education and Training Funding

Educational Assistants

- In-service and support
- Guidelines for deployment

Life Skills - Curriculum

Parents' Handbook - SEAC (member volunteers: A. Kappheim, J. Bishop)

Learning Centres

SEAC Handbook (HBE)

(member volunteers: A. Kappheim, J. Bishop, N. Dalziel and S. Batey)

Vocational Education - Update

AGENDA ITEMS: POTENTIAL DATES FOR DISCUSSION

February	Special Education Review
March	Behaviour Concerns: I. Peer Mediation Programs II. Safe Schools
May	Learning Centres
June	Peer Tutor Programs

EDUCATION RESTRUCTURING

INFORMATION SESSION

SPEAKING NOTES

Information Session

At 9:00 a.m. District Managers welcome participants and provide a brief overview of the event and the expectations on confidentiality.

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, and welcome to *(location)*. My name is *(name)* and as *(position)* for the Ministry of Education and Training, I would like to welcome you to this information session on education restructuring.

A portion of the information session will be delivered via teleconferencing in order to assist you in understanding the many changes contained in today's announcement.

The format for this morning's session is as follows:

- ▶ 9:15 - teleconference, chaired by M. Carrier-Fraser, commences
 - opening remarks by M. Carrier-Fraser
- ▶ 9:20 - Minister's remarks on the education restructuring announcement
- ▶ 9:40 - remarks on finance, delivered by Peter Wright
- ▶ 9:50 - finance questions and answers
- ▶ 10:10 - remarks on governance, delivered by Brian Fleming
- ▶ 10:20 - remarks by Paul Knox
- ▶ 10:30 - questions and answers
- ▶ 10:55 - closing remarks, by Deputy Minister Veronica Lacey
- ▶ 11:00 - teleconference ends
 - district office sessions begin
- ▶ 12:00 - district office sessions end

(Provide information, if necessary, on the following: parking, coffee, washrooms. An attempt should be made to provide this information to the participants at the registration table.)

Prepare slide #2...

Information Session

Purpose

The purpose of today's session is to provide an overview of the major changes proposed in the restructuring of Ontario's school system.

The government made a commitment to undertake significant reforms to education in the Common Sense Revolution and is following through on this commitment. As indicated by the Minister, in order to strengthen the curriculum and establish consistent, provincial standards to give all students of this province the best possible education, we must reform the structure and funding of the province's education system.

Prepare slide #3...

Context

Quality and Cost

Ontarians have expressed concern for many years about the quality and cost of education.

Other jurisdictions in Canada are also progressing rapidly with respect to restructuring their education systems. Ontario is proposing changes that will enhance the ability of schools and school boards to provide a high quality education for all students and to focus their role on public accountability for quality education.

This government has made a pledge to parents to move Ontario elementary and secondary students to the head of the class. As a result, in addition to revising the curriculum and developing tests, the structure of the education system, itself, must be reformed so that each school in the province has the resources it needs to successfully implement the new curriculum.

Prepare slide #4...

Focus

Refocussing Resources

The structural reform of the school system that is proposed is based on the principle that the primary obligation of schools, and therefore of school boards, is to educate students. This reform initiative is about putting students first.

Therefore, residential property taxpayers will no longer be required to bear the burden of funding education. The province will replace the revenue from residential taxpayers with provincial grants under a new funding model that will recognize the cost of educating students.

To this end, the reform must be designed to support curriculum renewal with high standards and improved performance by Ontario students. We must ensure that resources are focussed on the individual and on the teacher in the classroom.

Prepare slide #5...

Highlights

Funding and Governance

Funding

- ▶ Commercial and industrial taxes for education will be collected by municipalities and distributed to their local district school boards. Business taxes raised in a community will stay in that community.
- ▶ Education will be taken off the residential property tax. Provincial grants will replace residential property taxes.

Governance

- ▶ The number of school boards will be cut in half and the number of trustees reduced by almost 2/3.
 - 129 major school boards reduced to 66
 - 37 existing isolate and hospital school boards will be retained as school authorities
- ▶ The number of trustees across the province will be reduced from just under 1,900 to approximately 700 with the creation of the new district school boards. The role of trustees will be streamlined so that they will now be able to concentrate on their core objective of being guardians of education in their communities.
- ▶ There will be a strengthened role of advisory school councils. Parental and community involvement in the school will be enhanced and established by legislation.

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Funding of Education

Revenue

Under the new funding system, revenue sources for education will consist of provincial grants and commercial/industrial property taxes. Provincial grants will replace residential property taxes.

Commercial/industrial taxes will be collected by municipalities and distributed to their local district school boards and school authorities. Business taxes raised in a community will stay in that community.

Prepare slide #7...

Funding of Education

Allocation

- ▶ A new model for distributing funding will be developed to ensure a high quality of education to meet all students' needs regardless of where they live.
- ▶ The new funding model will ensure that every student's needs are met and that specific local circumstances are recognized, circumstances such as students learning English or French for the first time, students with special needs and students in remote communities. It will address the added expense of providing education in the North and in the urban centres of Ontario, which each face unique challenges.
- ▶ A full and detailed proposal for a new funding model will be released later this winter. That proposal will include input incorporated from a careful review of the responses to the fall consultation on *Meeting Students' Needs* as well as recommendations from the *Working Group on Education Finance Reform*, which was comprised of key stakeholders. The education community, parents and the public will be asked for their reaction to this proposal over the next few months. The aim is to finalize the new funding proposal this summer, in time to ensure that new district school boards and school authorities have a clear idea of the funding they will receive to deliver their mandate.

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Governance

Focus

School boards and trustees will be able to renew their focus on students in the school and to devote their efforts to student achievement, reporting and curriculum implementation.

Governance will be:

- ▶ simpler—redefined and streamlined role
- ▶ smaller—reduced number of school boards and trustees
- ▶ less costly--reduced administrative spending
- ▶ more accountable--clear and understandable reporting
- ▶ leading to better service--effective role as guardians of local education

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Reduction in Number of School Boards

District School Boards To Be Established

The new district school boards that will be established represent a 50 percent reduction in boards and a $\frac{2}{3}$ reduction in the number of trustees.

The current 129 major school boards will be consolidated into 66 *district school boards* (DSBs). The new district school boards will become effective in January 1998. These new district school boards, where possible, will follow municipal boundaries.

The current 37 isolate and hospital boards will be retained as school authorities.

Prepare slide #10...

District School Boards

English-Language District School Boards

The 55 English-language district school boards will consist of:

- ▶ 29 English-language public district school boards, and
- ▶ 26 English-language separate district school boards.

Currently, there are 77 English-language public school boards and 48 English-language Roman Catholic separate school boards.

Prepare slide #11...

District School Boards

French-Language District School Boards

The four French-language school boards, 59 sections of boards and eight advisory committees will be merged into eleven French-language district school boards.

For the first time, Francophones throughout Ontario will be able to govern their schools through their own boards.

The composition will be as follows:

- ▶ 4 French-language public district school boards, and
- ▶ 7 French-language separate district school boards.

Prepare slide #12...

District School Boards

Boundaries

When district school boards are established, it is anticipated that the boundaries will reflect municipal boundaries where possible.

Most coterminous (public and separate) district school boards will have the same boundaries.

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Number of Trustees

Highlights

The current number of just under 1,900 trustees across the province will be reduced to an estimated 700.

All district school boards will have a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 12 trustees, with one exception. The new Toronto public district school board will have 22 trustees due to electoral population.

The number of trustees for all district school boards will be determined on the basis of an electoral population table and a density table. The tables will be published in a regulation.

Prepare slide #14...

Trustees

Highlights

The role of the school board trustee is being redefined. Trustees will be restored to their traditional and effective role as guardians of local education. The focus will be on student learning and public accountability.

District school board trustees could, subject to board approval, receive an honorarium not to exceed a maximum of \$5,000. A potential additional allowance for chair and vice-chair responsibilities may be considered. This additional allowance will not exceed the maximum honorarium. Reimbursement for out-of-pocket expenses may be permitted, if approved by the full board.

There is no change with respect to number of trustees and compensation for trustees of school authorities. A review of compensation for trustees of isolate school authorities will be undertaken in the near future.

Trustees of school authorities in hospitals will continue to serve on a voluntary basis.

Prepare slide #15...

Trustees

Highlights

The election of trustees for the new district school boards will take place on November 10, 1997.

New criteria of qualification for trustees will reduce potential conflicts of interests. For example:

- ▶ district school board or school authority employees, or their spouses, will not be eligible to hold office in any school board or school authority in Ontario,
- ▶ board employees must take a leave of absence to run for office, and
- ▶ board employees must resign if they or their spouse is elected for office in any board.

Prepare slide #16...

School Councils

A Greater Voice For Parents

The government promised to give parents and the community a strengthened voice in the education system. Parents will now have an enhanced opportunity to influence the success of their local schools since the government will introduce legislation in the future that will make it mandatory for every school to have an advisory school council.

The school council advisory role will be strengthened with respect to program offerings, discipline, and reporting on academic progress.

Parents will be able to monitor and evaluate the performance of their local school board by reviewing annual reports that clearly state where education dollars are spent.

Prepare slide #17...

Transition

Preparing for January 1, 1998

To ensure that the reforms take place in an organized, careful manner, the government of Ontario will be introducing legislation to establish a Commission to:

- oversee the implementation of the new education governance model, including election processes,
- ensure school board fiscal responsibility during the transition period, and
- ensure a smooth transition in order to minimize disruptions.

The Commission will work with the local community, including trustees, classroom teachers, parents and other stakeholders to guide the process for change.

Prepare slide #18...

Implementation

Timelines

January 1997

- ▶ Legislation will be introduced to make provisions for the election of the new district school boards in November 1997 for implementation in January 1998.

Spring 1997

- ▶ The education community, parents and the public will be consulted on the new funding model.
- ▶ Further legislation will be introduced.

November 10, 1997

- ▶ The election of trustees to the new district school boards (DSBs).

January 1, 1998

- ▶ The new district school boards (DSBs) will be established.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1997 02 19

Present: Mrs. Kappheim (Chairman); Trustees Bishop and Mulholland; Mesdames Bramberger, Burns, Oommen, Kerr Jaskiewicz, Messrs. Must, Bucsis and Shields.

Not Present: Trustees Stewart and Patenaude; Mesdames Batey, Dalziel, Simms-Obidi, and E. Collins.

Also Present: Mesdames Hutchinson (Hamilton Teachers' Federation) and O'Brien (Hamilton Secondary School Principals' Association)

Official Present: Miss E. Bond (Superintendent of Program).

Mrs. Kappheim noted regrets for not attending were received from Trustee Stewart, Mesdames Collins, Batey and Dalziel.

URBAN MUNICIPAL

Moved by Mr. Mulholland:

That the minutes of the 1997 01 22 be approved. **CARRIED.**

SEP 12 1997

Remarks**Chairman**

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

Mrs. Kappheim advised the committee that Katherine Brink, Vice-Principal of R. A. Riddell School has invited the SEAC Committee to participate at the Parent Conference. Some of the members may recall that the SEAC Committee set up a storefront table last year. The conference will take place on April 26 at Westdale Secondary School.

The storefront table should be covered from 8:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and will include registration, lunch and an information booth. Mrs. Kappheim asked for a show of hands of those members interested in participating in the Parent Conference and Mesdames Oommen, Kerr Jaskiewicz and Mr. Shields stated their interest. All members are invited to attend the sessions that day.

Mrs. Kappheim noted that the Board of Education received the Canada-wide "BRAVO" Award for Excellence last year for the Parent Conference.

Mrs. Kappheim then informed the committee that she received an open letter from Mr. Steven Klow of Tichborn, Ontario who is starting an advocacy group to open the lines of communication for all exceptionalities. He wants to promote a sharing of information between various organizations, sharing literature and the creation of a united voice locally and provincially. He would like to schedule a meeting in Kingston to share ideas.

Mr. Mulholland asked that this letter be received and filed particularly since the Board is already doing all the things this letter is suggesting.

The Committee agreed.

Mrs. Kappheim then informed the committee that the Sudbury Board has not received a reply from the Ministry of Education and Training; she would like someone from this Board to contact the Sudbury Board in this regard. Mrs. Kappheim suggested further that the Board could send a letter expressing its support directly to the Ministry and the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO).

Mrs. Kappheim further commented that there is a flyer inviting SEAC members on February 27 to hear Norman Kunc, an author and advocate. If any members are interested in attending, please contact Dr. Tomlinson and let her know so that she can get a tally of the Board's attendance.

Superintendent of Program

Miss Bond advised the committee that as a result of a meeting with the elementary school principals it was determined how there would be consistency in the system IPRC's for youngsters who are new identifications. For students who are perceived to need a change in placement, that review will be a system review but within the school setting. There will also be a system review concept but all the system reviews will not be outside the schools. The special education consultants will sit on all annual reviews as well as the IPRC's. The process has already started and includes preliminary meetings on problem solving issues. There will not be a 2 - 3 week crunch similar to last year.

The secondary principals have a little different scenario in that they do not have the numbers as in the elementary panel. The secondary schools are evaluating as the school year progresses. There is still consistency in the process.

In continuing, Miss Bond stated as far as staffing is concerned for children with special needs there are a certain number of staff designated. The staffing formula determines how these numbers are allocated.

A formula for this year has to be developed based on the changes made in program delivery. Some staff numbers were held some back for specific needs but in the overall ratio, some schools will remain the same with the number of staff allocated for the special education students; others may lose and others may gain. Holding back some staff for specific cases would be a transition.

Discussions have taken place with the Hamilton Teachers' Federation and they understand it may not be the best scenario but this is where we are at right now.

Mrs. Kappheim asked if the 9 to 1 ratio will be maintained and Miss Bond replied no not in all schools. In some cases, the 9 to 1 may be maintained; however, in others it may be less or more. We will not know until all the IPRC's are done.

Mrs. Kappheim asked if the SEAC committee will receive a report on the number of students and the different settings and Miss Bond replied hopefully by the end of May. The Board has to work within the structure of the collective agreement for the staffing when the numbers are received after the IPRC meetings have been completed.

Miss Bond clarified for Mrs. Kappheim that this will allow more flexibility within the school settings.

Mr. Bucsis confirmed that the numbers of staff will not change and Miss Bond replied the distribution may change because of overall student population. The Board is trying to find the best way to provide for those schools who may be shortchanged in the overall scheme of things.

Mr. Bucsis questioned the implication if the number of students needing placement increases.

Miss Bond replied we have to work with the resources available.

Mr. Shields understood the concept of trying to get a better handle on trying to achieve some formula for the schools and he asked if the "back up pool" is centralized. If so, who is in control of the allocation.

Miss Bond replied the Staffing Co-ordinator from the Human Resources Department.

Mr. Shields commented centralization appealed to him because it gave some predictability over time and he hoped this is maintained so that all the resources are available where they are most needed.

Mrs. Oommen asked if there was a way of communicating with parents the importance of letting the school board know as soon as they decide to make a change in their child's schooling. i.e. moving to another school, etc. Parents should be asked to notify the Board of changes before the first day of school.

Mrs. Kappheim asked about transportation changes and if it was possible to receive a 6 month report that showed the savings of the transportation cuts and what groups were affected by these cuts.

Miss Bond replied she can obtain this report.

Miss Bond then reported there is an Anaphylaxis (food allergies) Committee that is developing a policy regarding food allergies. The committee is gathering a great deal of information.

Mrs. Bishop asked if there is a parent on this committee and Miss Bond replied there are two parents -- one is a lawyer; once a policy has been developed, there will be further parent input.

Organizational Updates

The following updates were provided:

Mr. Must (**Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders**) stated his association is making a presentation on March 19th to this SEAC committee. He asked how many people are allowed to attend the SEAC meetings and Mrs. Kappheim replied the meetings are open to the public.

Mr. Bucsis (**Learning Disabilities Association, Hamilton-Wentworth Chapter**) reported at their last meeting discussion took place on the issue of amalgamation. The concern raised pertained to representation of SEAC members on the transition committee regarding amalgamation. It was suggested that a letter be sent to the Ministry asking for SEAC representation on the local transition committee regarding amalgamation for Boards of Education.

Miss Bond stated she did not know the specific membership of the local transition committee and the Board has not received any communication to date regarding the composition of the committee.

There is provincial representation of Parent Advisory Council of SEAC that sits on the Minister's Advisory Council and Miss Bond suggested approaching them regarding this issue.

Mrs. Kappheim asked if SEAC has representation on the Education Improvement Committee (EIC).

Mrs. Bishop informed the members that the Co-Chairs of the EIC are Anne Vanstone from the Metro Toronto Board of Education and Dave Cook former Minister of Education. That is all we know about the Education Improvement Committee.

Mr. Bucsis felt that consideration should be given to SEAC representation on these committees

Moved by Mr. Shields:

That a communication be sent to the Ministry of Education asking that consideration be given for SEAC representation on the Local Transition Committees regarding the amalgamation of Boards of Education. **CARRIED.**

Mrs. Bishop reported on the following:

- March is Juvenile Arthritis Month (copy of the pamphlet is available in the Minute Room)
- A review of the report and recommendations of Executive Summary of the Multi-Year Plan for Long-Term Care Services in Hamilton-Wentworth. (A copy is available in the Minute Room)
- A review of the Ernst and Young Report on School Board spending for 1995/1996.

Mr. Shields (**Hamilton Association for Community Living**) did not have an organization update; however, he reported that communication has been received from Janet Eckert who has donated fifteen million dollars to the Province for at home care and kids graduating from home care. Unfortunately, Hamilton will only get about \$170,000. We have to be grateful that some people will benefit immediately but it is only a drop in the bucket.

Mr. Mulholland reported on the following:

- there will be another 12% reduction to caretaking services added to the 18% in Mrs. Bishop's earlier report. This makes the Board's cleaning services somewhat lower than in private enterprise.
- the Board is in the process of replacing a Superintendent of Schools and Assistant Superintendent of Schools.

Ms. Hutchinson (**Hamilton Teachers' Federation**) reported on the following:

- Discussions took place at the general meeting for HTF and it was noted that although the Ministry of Education is not responding or paying attention to special interest groups, they will respond to parents who have specific concerns of their children in the schools.

Ms. O'Brien (**Hamilton Secondary Schools Principals' Association**) reported on the following:

- February 21st is a P.A. Day and will include workshops from each of the project team members for teachers to attend that deal specifically with their classroom needs. Examples of workshops include development of social skills, advisor program, behaviour strategies, development of learning centres, approach for special needs, anger management, as well as an Internet inservice.

Mrs. Kappheim (**Association for Bright Children**) reported on the following:

- Provincial council meeting took place on the weekend of February 15) and discussions took place on amalgamation and the hope that we can be part of the design of the organization.
- Dr. Katherine Kolby was keynote speaker - Chief Psychologist from London Board who spoke on the issue of the Gifted Program particularly gifted girls and ways of trying to get them back on track.
- At the local chapter meeting that recently took place, Lorne Evans was in attendance and it was a great opportunity meeting him and sharing concerns..

Presentation: Special Education Review

Miss Bond introduced the presenters: Doreen Vella and Cynthia Wilkinson, Psychoeducational Consultants - Psychological Services Department.

Ms. Vella began the presentation and reviewed Component 1 of the report.

Ms. Wilkinson reviewed Component 2.

The committee agreed to go beyond the hour of 9:00 p.m.

At the end of the review Mrs. Kappheim commented the report made a good argument to try and stay consistent with our special education programs.

Ms. Wilkinson noted the report did not include Gifted Students.

On behalf of the members, Mrs. Kappheim thanked the presenters.

Agenda Review/Planning

Mrs. Kappheim noted that Peer Mediation is on the agenda for next month and Mr. Must will be presenting next month on behalf of the Ontario Association for Families of Children with Communication Disorders.

Mrs. Bishop asked about the Restraint Procedures and how the procedures are being used and Miss Bond replied the guidelines for the Restraint Procedures fall under the Safe Schools Policy.

Mrs. Kappheim asked if it would be appropriate to have the Restraint Procedures on future agenda.

Mrs. Bishop wanted to know how the Restraint Procedures are being used and how they are affecting the Special Education students.

Miss Bond stated she will obtain this information after she speaks to the other Superintendents.

It was agreed that the following would be items for the March agenda of the Special Education Advisory Committee:

- Restraint Procedures (if available)
- A report on Educational Assistants by Sylvia Scarrow, Human Resources Officer
- Amalgamation of the Boards of Education
- Transportation Report.

The meeting then adjourned.

Read and confirmed,

CHAIRMAN

jep

1997 06 18

Present: Mrs. Kappheim (Chairman), Trustees Bishop and Mulholland, Mesdames Batey, Dalziel, Innes, Kerr Jaskiewicz, Savelli, Simms-Obidi, Vlahovich and Mr. Bucsis.

Not Present: Trustees Patenaude and Stewart, Mesdames Burns, Bramberger, Dr. Archer, Messrs. Must and Shields.

Also Present: E. Collins (Hamilton Principals' Association)

SEP 12 1997

Official Present: E. Bond (Superintendent of Program)

Mrs. Kappheim called the meeting to order, noting regrets for not attending were received from Mesdames Burns, Bramberger, Hutchinson and Dr. Archer. She then called for confirmation of the minutes.

Moved by Mrs. Bishop:

That the minutes of the 1997 03 19, 1997 04 16 and 1997 05 21 meetings be approved.

Referring to the March meeting minutes, Mrs. Bishop requested that on Page 2 under Organizational Updates [second line of fifth paragraph] the word "time" be deleted.

Drawing attention to Page 4 (Organizational Updates) of the May meeting minutes, Dr. Bucsis recalled that under his Association's update, he did not distribute copies of the SEAC Circular - May 1997 issue but rather provided a copy to the Minute Room for distribution with the May minutes. [A copy is attached to these minutes.]

Miss Bond referred to copies of handouts/information sheets which were made available for the members and should have been attached to the minutes of the March and April SEAC meetings.

The motion, as amended, was put to a vote and was CARRIED.

Mrs. Kappheim underscored the importance of having the minutes of this Committee on time as this would facilitate the functioning of the Committee particularly in tracking and addressing relevant issues about special education.

In reply to Mrs. Bishop, Miss Bond said the SEAC handbook will be available at the September meeting.

Remarks

Chairman

Mrs. Kappheim advised that she received a call from the Director's Office requesting a SEAC representative to the Local Education Improvement Committee's (LEIC) Program Sub-Committee. As the Ministry of Education and Training's submission timeline was 1997 06 16, she agreed with the suggestion that her name would be submitted on an interim basis pending the opportunity to discuss this with the SEAC members.

Mrs. Bishop provided a brief background on the work of the LEIC, noting this committee usually meets twice a month during the day.

Moved by Miss Dalziel:

That Arlene Kappheim be the SEAC representative to the Local Education Improvement Committee's Program Sub-Committee. **CARRIED**

The members were advised that Lynn Ziraldo will be the guest speaker at the upcoming SEAC orientation to be held at a **Special Meeting of SEAC on Wednesday, 1997 10 01, 19:00 hours in the Lower Auditorium - Education Centre.**

Mrs. Kappheim reminded the members to send her (either in person or by mail) their proposed changes to the SEAC flyer.

Superintendent of Program

Miss Bond advised that the Board has received copies of "The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8" from the Ministry of Education and Training which replaces the Common Curriculum document in Mathematics and Language. An initial review of the new documents indicated more similarities than differences to the Common Curriculum. Miss Bond noted that the initiatives outlined in the documents are seen to be in line with what the Board has been doing. She added that the new documents will be reviewed in-depth and information regarding the changes will be put together over the summer. Miss Bond agreed to provide a further update on this at the next meeting.

Miss Bond reported that a recommendation appointing Carol Campanella, Special Education Consultant, to the position of Interim Project Team Leader - Special Education effective 1997 09 01 would be brought to the 1997 06 19 regular Board meeting for approval.

GENERAL

Update from the Ministry of Education and Training [Guest Speaker: Norah Franklin, District Manager, Ministry of Education and Training]

Ms. Campanella introduced the guest speaker: Ms. N. Franklin, a former Hamilton teacher and principal; presently District Manager, Ministry of Education and Training.

Using an overhead, Ms. Franklin spoke on the Ministry's initiatives in the following key educational issues and then responded to the members' questions:

- ⇒ new Ontario Curriculum
- ⇒ secondary school reform
- ⇒ standards and testing
- ⇒ student-focused funding
 - foundation grant
 - special purpose grants
 - pupil accommodation grant
- ⇒ financial reporting and accountability
- ⇒ Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO)
- ⇒ College of Teachers Act
- ⇒ Education Improvement Committee (EIC) and Local Education Improvement Committee (LEIC)
- ⇒ School Councils

Several relevant information handouts from the Ministry of Education and Training were made available during the presentation.

Ms. Franklin advised that Jessica Hill is the new Assistant Deputy Minister responsible for co-ordinating a system of services for children.

In response to a question, Ms. Franklin indicated that Regulation 305 would be in place at the same time the new school boards become operational, i.e. January 1998.

The members expressed their anticipation of strong support from the Ministry for early years education. It was suggested that this area could be looked at within the context of the interministerial issues.

Several members were concerned that, with the forthcoming amalgamation of school boards, it would be more difficult to negotiate the issues around special education.

On behalf of the members, Mrs. Kappheim thanked Ms. Franklin.

Moved by Miss Dalziel:

That the Committee continue to meet past 21:00 hours. Carried

Organizational Updates

The following updates were provided:

Hamilton-Wentworth Children's Aid Society

Ms. Vlahovich reported that the Association conducted a voluntary project on accreditation and the results indicated a 97% compliance with accredited standards.

Autism Ontario, Hamilton-Wentworth Chapter

Ms. Simms-Obidi advised that the Association's new president is Kelly Anderson. Noting that the Association is organizing a series of workshops in the fall, Ms. Simms-Obidi said she would bring more information to the September meeting.

Hamilton and District Easter Seals Parent Delegate Group

Ms. Kerr Jaskiewicz referred to a well attended meeting on IPRC training in London, Ontario.

In response to Ms. Kerr Jaskiewicz's question on access to services, Mrs. Bishop clarified that the Hamilton and Wentworth Boards of Education would remain funded separately until the new board is formed.

Down Syndrome Association

Ms. Innes drew the members' attention to the newsletter "Hamilton Family Network News", noting someone requested her to distribute copies among the SEAC members. [A copy is available in the Minute Room.]

Hamilton Principals' Association

Ms. Collins provided the following update:

⇒ The schools' operating procedures on fire alarms are currently being updated and it is anticipated that the revised procedures will be in place by September 1997.

⇒ Mr. Eric Hipkiss, Principal of Sanford School, will replace her as HPA representative to SEAC effective in September. She expressed her thanks and appreciation for the opportunity to be a part of SEAC.

The members' thanked Ms. Collins for her efforts and contributions to this Committee.

Learning Disabilities Association, Hamilton-Wentworth Chapter

In reply to Mr. Bucsis' query, Miss Bond affirmed that schools have criteria in place for children with learning disabilities.

At this point, Mr. Bucsis noted the continuing absence of some of the trustee representatives to this Committee.

Association for Bright Children

Mrs. Kappheim expressed her and the other parents' concerns regarding decision-making on the location and re-location of gifted classes. Noting the lack of Board policy on the issue, she suggested that a SEAC sub-committee be struck to develop guidelines and recommend to the Board the development of a policy on the location/re-location of special education classes within the system.

Miss Bond clarified for Mrs. Kappheim that it is the responsibility of the school principal to supervise the instructional programs assigned to teachers. Special Education Consultants are available to assist teachers but not to supervise them.

Annual Review/IPRC Process

There was agreement to defer consideration of this item to the next meeting of this Committee.

Agenda Planning

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

The meeting then adjourned.

Read and confirmed,

CHAIRMAN

rt

Att.

SEAC CIRCULAR

May, 1997

This copy of the SEAC Circular will cover the following issues:

- ▶ **Further on Bill 104 and things to watch out for as we proceed towards the amalgamation of school boards;**
- ▶ **1997 school board annual reports to the Ministry of Education and Training;**
- ▶ **Program funding for students with LD and ADHD;**
- ▶ **Waiting for the funding formula**
- ▶ **Transcription services for printhandicapped students**

1. Bill 104 and its implications for SEAC activity

As you must all be aware, **Bill 104, the Fewer School Boards Act**, received third reading, Royal assent and was proclaimed during the week of April 21, 1997. Although some of the details of the implementation will be announced later, it is important that your SEAC begins some preparatory work, if indeed your school board is one of the ones slated for amalgamation.

It is important that the amalgamated school board does not move to special education service delivery at the lowest level possible. Therefore, your SEAC should begin to gather information on the best practices within your board in special education and check whether these practices actually comply with Provincial legislation and regulations. For example, do your students have access to a full continuum of placement options as they need special education programming and as it was set out in the Ministry's integration policy? If not, then your school board's best practices may not be good enough for the amalgamated board to adopt. There are many key factors in this area that the legislation sets out and which are not met by school boards. It is up to the SEAC to flag these, prior to amalgamation.

We hear that some school boards are using the Bill 104 issue to ask the Ministry for changes to the Education Act relating to SEACs (Section 206). For example, one board has asked for a repeal of the section that states that the qualifications of SEAC reps. should be the same as those for trustees. The problem with such piecemeal amendments would be that the mandated role of SEAC could also be changed along with this change. If you are aware of any such proposed changes from your school board and especially if these had not been through SEAC, then your SEAC should immediately pass a motion to oppose these and communicate this to the board. Further, it may be useful to communicate this to your local district office of the Ministry of Education and Training.

2. 1997 annual report to the Ministry of Education and Training

The attached memorandum from the Ministry of Education and Training should have been presented to your SEAC at your April meeting, together with the amendments to your school board's Special Education Plan. Please remember that the SEAC's comments on the material that the school board is planning to send to the Ministry by May 15, 1997, should accompany this response. If your SEAC did not see the report in adequate time or if the school board is ignoring and not including your comments, then please ensure that this is communicated to the members of the Board and the Ministry as well.

This is a really important part of the Ministry's accountability plan. However, it is imperative that we and in particular you, as SEAC reps., carry out our tasks in relation to this issue.

If you have run into some difficulties around this or if you feel that your SEAC is being by-passed, please ask for help. You can contact us at the LDAO office as well as speak to the Education Officer at your local district office of the Ministry of Education and Training.

3. Program funding for LD and ADHD students

✓ You will probably recall that the Ministry of Education and Training established a program fund for students who have this dual diagnosis, who would be eligible for admission to one of the Demonstration Schools but for whom remaining at the home board is the parents' desired option. This was a replacement of the hard to serve option. It enables the school board to apply for a grant of \$20,000 for two consecutive years to establish a local program to meet the needs of this student. Some boards have not provided this information to either parents or teachers. Further, they have not notified their I.P.R.C. personnel, teachers and parents about the availability of resource support services for students who have severe learning disabilities through the itinerant services of the Demonstration Schools. As a SEAC rep. for LDAO, it is up to you to recommend that this information is disseminated within your Board. It is LDAO's policy to support this program and therefore as a SEAC rep. you are also expected to support it.

We have heard that one SEAC has actually written to the Minister asking for a discontinuation of this program on the grounds that school boards staffs do not know how to serve students with this dual diagnosis and therefore it is not a good use of funding.

It is our hope that the LDA rep. on that SEAC did not support this motion. However, it is very disappointing that when such discussions arise at a SEAC, we at the LDAO office who could give guidance to the SEAC reps concerned are not alerted to such a situation.

Please remember that any written briefs that your chapter submits to the school board and any controversial issues that appear before your SEAC and which contravene LDAO policy should be communicated to the staff at the LDAO office.

4. Awaiting the new funding formula

We do not yet know how education funding is to be allocated after the amalgamation of the school boards occurs. The issue for us is primarily that, rather than the original source of the funds, i.e. property taxes or Provincial funds.

Further, it is important for all of you to remember that LDAO supports the educational system in meeting its constitutionally mandated options, i.e. providing services to Roman Catholic students and Francophone students through their own school boards.

It may well be that as a SEAC you may be asked to endorse certain school board actions which contravene these LDAO policies. Please remember that your primary obligations are to meeting the needs of exceptional students and not in dealing with the school board's general financial concerns.

As soon as the funding formula is available, we shall advise you on what is the most suitable action for you to take as a SEAC rep.

5. Transcription services for printhandicapped students

Students who are printhandicapped due to a visual impairment or a learning disability and who are in the secondary or postsecondary sector may be provided with taped books through the W. Ross Macdonald School in Brantford. Last year there was some concern about the continuation of this program, due to funding changes within the Ministry of Education and Training.

I am pleased to inform you that the program is going to continue to be funded. If you have not recently reminded staff at your school board about this important accommodation for students within the Board, you may wish to do so at this time.

If you need to know any further information about this, please call Eva Nichols, LDAO's Legislation and Government Liaison Consultant.

PLEASE SHARE THIS COPY OF THE SEAC CIRCULAR WITH YOUR FELLOW SEAC REPS.

Need information? We can help!

Eva Nichols/Joan Schiff
416-929-4311

Lynn Ziraldo
905-884-7933

CAY ON HCL W26

M37

1997

MINUTES OF THE
SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
1997 09 17

Present: Mrs. A. Kappheim (Chairman), Trustees Bishop and Mulholland, Mesdames Batey, Bramberger, Burns, Dalziel, Innes, Kerr Jaskiewicz, Vlahovich; Dr. Archer; Messrs. Bucsis and Shields.

Not

Present: Trustees Patenaude and Stewart; Mesdames Savelli, Simms-Obidi and Hutchinson; Mr. Must

URBAN MUNICIPAL

Also Ms. S. Dube (Hamilton Secondary School Principals' Council)

Present: Mr. E. Hipkiss (Hamilton Principals' Association)

OCT 17 1997

Officials Miss E. Bond (Superintendent of Program)

Present: Dr. J. Tomlinson (Interim Assistant Superintendent of Program)
 Ms. C. Campanella (Interim Project Team Leader - Special Education)

GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS

Mrs. Kappheim called the meeting to order, noting regrets for not attending were received from Trustee Patenaude; Mesdames Simms-Obidi and Hutchinson.

Prior to confirming the minutes, Mrs. Bishop noted that the minutes of the meeting held on November 20 should not be confirmed as official minutes since there was no quorum and the members present at the meeting formed a workgroup to discuss the Secondary School Reform Discussion Paper. Therefore, the "minutes" could be accepted as meeting notes of the workgroup.

Moved by Mr. Mulholland:

That the meeting notes of November 20 of the workgroup discussing Secondary School Reform be accepted. CARRIED.

Moved by Mr. Shields:

That the minutes of the meetings held on 1997 02 19 and 1997 06 18 be approved, as presented to the members. CARRIED.

Remarks

Chairman

Ms. Kappheim welcomed Carol Campanella as the Interim Project Team Leader, Mr. Eric Hipkiss representing the Hamilton Principals' Association and Ms. Suzanne Dube representing the Ontario Secondary School Principals' Council. She also welcomed Ms. Yantzi, Interim Special Education Consultant.

Ms. Kappheim reminded the members that Wednesday, October 1 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lower Auditorium is the SEAC Orientation evening. Any members who have any questions, particularly the new members, may want to prepare them for that evening. Ms. Lynn Ziraldo, a member of the Provincial SEAC and Program Advisory Committee (PAC) will be present at the orientation.

Members of the Wentworth County SEAC have also been invited to the orientation and although an invitation has been issued to the Separate School Board SEAC, to date, a reply has not been received.

Ms. Kappheim then distributed copies of the draft SEAC flyer. It is not a full version as in the past; however, it does give an update. The SEAC Handbook will be available for the October meeting.

Mr. Shields questioned the shading on the front cover of the flyer and expressed some concerns that someone with visual impairments may have difficulty in reading this. Ms. Kappheim made note of this suggestion and will change the front cover. She hoped this could be made available to the schools for Meet-the-Teacher Nights.

Ms. Kappheim referred to a meeting she attended which discussed the process for special education funding by the Ministry. It was a worthwhile opportunity to provide input and copies of the report were distributed to the SEAC members.

The Wentworth County SEAC will be sending copies of their SEAC minutes to this committee and she suggested that this Board reciprocate this gesture.

Ms. Kappheim concluded she is working on the Local Education Improvement Commission (LEIC), Education Sub-Committee representing SEAC and its first meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 18.

Project Team Leader

Ms. Campanella reported the special education consultants are contacting all the schools, and attending the DART meetings. It has been a smooth start to the new school year.

Part of the Program Department in-service focus will be on the new Ontario Curriculum. An in-service was also held for new learning resource teachers and an additional list of in-service sessions has been scheduled.

Ms. Kappheim asked if the in-service dates could be made available to the SEAC Members and Ms. Bond replied the Staff Development Calendar of Events will be available shortly. She will ensure that the members of this committee receive a copy.

Ms. Bramberger commented there was an unusually high number of new Special Education students enrolling in the Separate School system at the Junior/Senior Kindergarten level this year and asked if this was the case with the Public Board.

Dr. Tomlinson replied the Public Board also has a high number of enrolment; however, this is not unusual for this time of year.

Superintendent of Program

Miss Bond added her congratulations to Ms. Campanella as the new Interim Project Team Leader and welcomed the new members to this committee.

Miss Bond then distributed copies of the following reports stating she felt they may be of interest to the members of this committee:

- Report on the Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education
- The Ontario Curriculum, Grades 1-8, Language and Mathematics
- Flyer for an Information Session regarding the new Ontario Curriculum and the new Provincial Report Card which will be held on Monday, October 6 at the Hamilton Board of Education from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Main Auditorium.

Miss Bond also stated that in November a fact sheet will be mailed to the parents outlining some aspects of the new Ontario curriculum.

GENERAL

Presentation: Hamilton-Wentworth Communication Collective

Ms. Batey introduced Geraldine Schram from the Hamilton-Wentworth Communication Collective.

Ms. Schram began her presentation by stating that a new brochure for the Hamilton-Wentworth Communication Collective will be coming out shortly and when it does, she will contact Ms. Batey to give her copies for the SEAC members.

Ms. Schram is a member of the Hamilton-Wentworth Communication Collective which represents people who use Augmentative and Alternative Communication to send or receive messages. The Collective advocates for people who have to rely on these alternative methods of communication.

The Hamilton-Wentworth Communication Collective was started in 1977 to be a resource for professionals to work with young children who were beginning to use a form of communication called "Blissymbolics".

At present there are approximately 70 members, a large percentage being teachers and EA's who are members as well as speech pathologists and parents.

Ms. Schram concluded that the Collective meets 4 to 5 times a year and its goals are shifting more to consumer advocacy. The Collective has achieved international status and trips in the foreseeable future include Europe and China.

Mrs. Bishop recalled Ms. Schram was a member of this SEAC Committee a few years ago and was pleased to hear of the work the Collective is doing.

Ms. Kappheim found the presentation impressive and was also pleased to hear of the work internationally. She then thanked Ms. Schram for her presentation.

Organization Updates:

Mrs. Bishop reported that she attended the "Train the Trainer" on the new Ontario Report Card. Although there were a lot of questions on the needs for special education children, very little discussion took place in this area.

There were also many questions regarding students receiving modified programs in terms of how they are assessed, but again, there were no clear answers. Mrs. Bishop then distributed copies of the report on the New Ontario Report Card to the members.

Mrs. Bishop noted the following dates for upcoming sessions regarding Long Term Care:

October 7: 5:30-7:30 - Self-Help Centre - "Community Based Update" with Betty Muggah speaking.
Saturday, November 22 - Self Help Centre, Dr., Jackson, Head of the Regional Offices for Long Term Care will have a discussion entitled "What Can I Do and How Can I Fight Back?".

Also sometime in November, there will be a panel discussion with Dr. Jackson, a social worker and physician on "How Cut Backs will Affect Me". Mrs. Bishop stated she will let the members know when this is to take place.

Mrs. Bishop then asked about the location of the two new special education teachers recently hired by this Board and Ms. Campanella replied one is a special education teacher for the deaf/hard-of-hearing at Sherwood Secondary School and the other is a special education teacher in the Comprehensive Class at Westmount Secondary School.

Mrs. Bishop alluded to the grave concerns regarding cutbacks and the decrease of home care. Something needs to be done about this and she hoped that Dr. Tomlinson had some information regarding this issue.

Dr. Tomlinson replied that communication from Mrs. Ebelard, Director of Clinical Services for Chedoke-McMaster, indicated the cutbacks would cause a major disservice to children in the local

community particularly to the ones in school. These cutback would mean a reduction primarily in occupational therapy and physiotherapy services.

In her meetings with Home Care representatives, Dr. Tomlinson stated that one of the discussions centered around trying to juggle what will be left after the cutbacks take place. Ministry Memorandum No. 81 states that there will be a joint sharing of services among the Ministries of Health, Education and Training and the Community and Social Services and many services are going to be affected by cutbacks.

Ms. Bramberger noted that the situation with budget and utilization is impacted by a number of different factors and there will be further impact with the health restructuring commission.

Mr. Shields suggested challenging this erosion of services and register the concerns of this committee. This would at least let the Ministry of Health know that "we will not go quietly into the night".

Ms. Bramberger agreed and stated that this will be an agenda item for her association's meeting.

Moved by Mr. Shields:

That the Board of Education for the City of Hamilton support the position of the Special Education Advisory Committee regarding a letter being sent to the Ministry of Health expressing its concerns on the erosion of school health support services and that copies of this correspondence be sent to the local District Health Councils, Community Care Access Centre (CCAC), the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA), the Provincial Special Education Advisory Committee and the Regional Office of Education.

Miss Bond agreed that, if approved, her department would draft the letter and it would include statements regarding the level of need in the Hamilton area.

The motion was then put to a vote and was CARRIED.

Hamilton & District Society for Disabled Children

Ms. Dalziel noted her association is still discussing the restructuring of health services and how this will affect the current mandate of her organization. She will keep the members up to date.

Hamilton & District Easter Seals Parent Delegate Group

Ms. Kerr Jaskiewicz reported she just attended the Provincial Conference for her association. There was a representative from the Ministry of Education at the conference and a lot of questions were asked about the Secondary School Reform. It was a very contentious issue and one of the discussions centered around "certificate vs. diploma". It was agreed that a lot of parents would be willing to accept a high school graduation certificate but it would have to outline the credits as well as the modified subjects.

Ms. Kerr Jaskiewicz concluded that one of the discussions centered around the amalgamation of the Boards of Education. One of the possibilities that was suggested was to avoid a duplication of services, particularly in the makeup of the SEAC committee, there would be one SEAC representative and the other representative from the same organization would be an alternate. The alternate representative would have voting rights only when the other member could not be present.

Hamilton-Wentworth Home Care Program

Ms. Bramberger reported that on October 1st, the Hamilton-Wentworth Home Care Program will be officially known as the Community Care Access Centre (CCAC). The membership remains the same and the CEO is Betty Muggah while the Chairperson will be Terry Shields from the Ministry of

Community and Social Services (COMSOC). The partners of CCAC will be receiving a mailing on what the new association will mean.

In referring back to Ms. Kerr Jaskiewicz's comments regarding the SEAC alternatives, Mr. Mulholland suggested that the letters with the suggestion be sent to the Local Education Improvement Commission (LEIC) as soon as possible. The co-ordinator for LEIC is Mr. Greenleaf, Director of Education at the Wentworth County Board of Education.

Hamilton Association for Community Living

Mr. Shields reported that COMSOC is going through a similar restructuring and he has a copy of the report if any member wished to review it.

Annual Review/IPRC Process

Ms. Campanella reviewed the IPRC Process.

Concerns were expressed that parents of students going through the IPRC process do not understand the difference between school site IPRC and the system site and it was clarified that parents are well informed before the IPRC process.

Moved by Mr. Shields:

That this meeting extend beyond the hour of 9:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. **CARRIED.**

Ms. Campanella concluded her presentation and it was agreed that the members will review the report and questions will be answered at the October meeting regarding the IPRC process.

Guidelines for Special Class Relocation - A. Kappheim

This item was deferred to the October meeting.

Update: Amalgamation, Local Education Improvement Committee (LEIC) - Education Sub-Committee - J. Bishop

Mrs. Bishop reported that the LEIC meetings are held once a week. There are four committees under the LEIC Structure; Finance, Personnel, Education and Property. The meetings are open to the public and are usually held on Mondays from 1:00-3:30. The following is a schedule of Education Sub-Committee LEIC meetings to take place and their locations:

Monday, Sept. 22 - 1:00-3:30 in Room 2 and 3 - Education Centre
 Tuesday, September 30th- 1:00 - 3:30 Wentworth County Board of Education
 Wednesday, October 8 - 1:00-3:30 - Rooms 2 and 3, Education Centre
 Monday, October 20th - 1:00 - 3:30 - Wentworth County Board of Education

Mrs. Bishop explained further that immediate decisions are being made for a smooth transition and planning for work to be done; however, it will take at least 4 years before complete amalgamation is in place.

One of the decisions that the new Board has put in place is to accept all policies pro tem. The policy on accessibility is included.

The November election will elect 7 Trustees from Hamilton and 4 from Wentworth County for the new District Board of Education.

Ms. Kappheim reminded the members she is the SEAC representative on LEIC and if any of the members have any concerns, she will take them to the LEIC meetings.

Agenda Planning

The members agreed that the following items will be placed on the agenda for the October SEAC meeting:

Amalgamation

Presentation: Dr. Archer

Guidelines for Special Class Relocation

Agenda Discussion

The meeting then adjourned.

Read and confirmed,

CHAIRMAN

*jep



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